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International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union
(ILGWU)

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Justice (Vol. 1, Iss. 31)

International Ladies Garment Workers Union (ILGWU)

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Comments

Justice was the official publication of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union ILGWU from 1919 to 1995. Editions of *Justice* were published in English, Italian, Spanish, and Yiddish. When compared side by side, the content of some of these different editions of *Justice* shows significant differences. This is the English-language edition of *Justice*.



JUSTICE



OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE INTER NATIONAL LADIES GARMENT WORKERS UNION.

Vol. I. No. 31.

New York, N. Y., Saturday, Aug. 16, 1919.

Price 2 cents.

GENERAL EXECUTIVE BOARD HOLDS A SPECIAL MEETING

DECIDE TO DETAIL ORGANIZERS FOR THE OUT-OF-TOWN WAIST AND DRESS INDUSTRY. SCHLESINGER WILL GO TO THE PACIFIC COAST TO LOOK INTO SITUATION OF CLOAKMAKERS AT LOS ANGELES.

A special meeting of the General Executive Board took place on August 11 in the Council Room of the General Office, 31 Union Square, New York. President Schlesinger, Secretary Baroff, and Vice Presidents Siegmán, Vander, Kolofsky, Lefkowitz, Fannia M. Cohn, Ninfo and Silver attended.

The regular quarterly meeting of the General Executive Board is to take place on September 15, but urgent matters needing an immediate consideration made it necessary to call a special meeting.

President Schlesinger reviewed the recent strike the International had conducted successfully in all parts of the country. He spoke of the settlements reached in those strikes in which he personally took an active and leading part.

Bright as the history of the International has been in the past few months; gratifying as the results of the several strikes and near-strikes have been, there have also been some gloomy spots, and the Toronto situation is a case in point.

The strike of the Toronto cloak makers has reached its critical stage. Most of the Toronto cloak trade is in the hands of rich manufacturers, members of the union-busting National Manufacturers' Association.

The Toronto cloak-magnates are all worthy representatives of this national exploiters' association and many of them are Jewhaters to the bargain. They are evidently determined to break the union at whatever cost to themselves.

The International, of course, is second to none when it comes to a stiff fight, but things in Canada are a bit too disadvantageous for our great organization. Reaction and repression are reigning supreme in the Great Dominion, and for the time being the arms will have to be lowered.

The Toronto strike will have to be abandoned. This is sad news indeed, but there is no other way at present. The General Executive Board, which mirrors the spirit of the International, is not in the habit of swallowing down defeat. The Toronto decision was adopted after grave deliberations, but it was decided to renew the struggle at the first opportunity, and it is not unlikely that before the spring season sets in the cloak magnates of Toronto will again have a strike on their hands, with all the resources of the International on the side of the strikers.

The out-of-town waist industry has been the stumbling block of

the Ladies' Waist Makers' Union for the last few years, and something radical had to be undertaken.

Our Victory Banquets

Our New York cloakmakers are a scrappy lot, it is true, and they will not step out of the way to suit any manufacturers' association, however august. But they are also a cheery lot, and when through scrapping they know how to make merry.

It is their time-honored custom to celebrate victories by arranging banquets, at which, in addition to eats and drinks (and the percentage of "kick" used to be a fair multiple of 2.75) there is much good and bad speechmaking and a great deal of spontaneous merriment.

Also this year the cloakmakers chose the banquet as the form of victory celebration. But how different the banquets are now! And no wonder, for the recent victory overshadows all the victories of the past combined. It is a victory with a great, big, huge capital "V."

There has always been something the matter with the celebration banquets of our needle trade warriors. The leaders of the "victorious" workers would just as soon stay away from these banquets as not. They were plainly nervous about facing the workers at a "victory" celebration. And they had good reason to. For the "victories" of the past were short-lived. The increases in prices and decreases in hours fizzled out as soon as the workers would return to their shops. The piece work demon would regain possession of its victims and there would be the same scramble for bundles, the same hustling, the same fierce competition among the workers as ever.

And the leaders knew it. The leaders realized that their holiday speeches at the "victory" banquets were received with suppressed hisses and with open grumbling.

This time, however, the leaders are only too eager to come to the banquets. They have brought the bacon home, and no mistake. They can stand examination and cross-examination on every letter of the word that spells V-I-C-T-O-R-Y. And the rank and file, too, like the banquets a heap, more than they used to. They've got now something very tangible and very real to celebrate. They've got the goods delivered by the leaders.

en to get the out-of-town-scab shops out of the way. The general Executive Board reached an important decision in this regard. Special organizers will be detailed for the work of unionizing the country waist shops and no amount of money will be considered too large to place these shops on the footing of the New York waist and dress shops.

The Los Angeles cloakmaker strike was also a subject of discussion. The Board decided that President Schlesinger go to Los Angeles and take charge of the situation. He will leave for the Pacific Coast in a few days and

on his way back will stop in several cities and address meetings. His trip will thus also serve as an agitation tour on behalf of the International.

Our western locals will surely be glad to hear that Schlesinger is coming their way. That he will be received most cordially goes without saying, and we are certain that his mere presence will be a great stimulus for the activities of these locals.

New chapters were granted by the General Executive Board to the Ladies Tailors' Union of New Haven, Conn., and Ladies' Tailors' Union of Rochester, N. Y.

They've got good wages, not fictitious increases of so much per garment, but honest - to - goodness weekly wages. They've got a 44-hour week, not in theory, not as a humorous clause in the agreement with the manufacturers, but as a reality measured by the standardized clocks of the city. So why shouldn't they be genuinely happy!

And they are! Local vies with local in making the victory banquet a brilliant and memorable affair. The Finishers' Local No. 9 was the first to start off the banqueting. Then came Local 11 of Brownsville. Last Saturday, Local 1 held its banquet, and on Sunday afternoon, local 23 was "raising cane." Local 17, the "conscientious objectors" to week work will hold its victory banquet on Aug. 16 to celebrate the introduction of week work. Our keen cutters of local 10 are busy whooping up their victory celebration, and from all indications it promises to be a record smasher.

We forgot to say that Local 1 was also in conscience opposed to week work, and it is perhaps for this reason, by way of doing penance, that it held a particularly festive banquet. What with eats and dainties and improvised choirs and airs of the "From Milwaukee to Kentucky" brand and classical music and revolutionary anthems and speeches by President Schlesinger and Brother Baroff and other past masters of eloquence and leadership, the local 1 fellows had a roaring time of it.

S. Yanofsky, the editor of the Justice and the "Gerechtigkeit" was not exactly there but he wished he would. Proof: the following telegram sent from his vacation mountain top:

Stroudsburg, Pa., Aug. 9, 1919. Banquet Committee, International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, Beethoven Hall, 210 East 5th St., New York.

Friends: Very sorry cannot be with you bodily to celebrate your great victory. I wish and hope your present victory is the forerunner of the final great victory of all labor.

S. YANOFSKY.

The fete of local 23 was arranged on a large scale. Shop-chairmen and shop committees had been invited to attend, and there were precious few who declined the invitation. There was fun and mirth and speech-making and—my, what eats! The banqueters were tearing it up, real fashion. Schlesinger and Baroff were there, of course, for no banquet would be worthy of its name if these two big chiefs stayed away. And once there they simply had to make speeches.

Friend Yanofsky (now that he is vacationing we don't have to style him editor in chief, and we won't either) is angry to beat the band. We learned it from private advices. He wanted to be at that banquet, and at the rest of them, too. But the arrangement committees decided it would be impracticable to hold the celebration amidst the crags of the Blue Mountains, and so other place would suit our chief. So he had to stay out. Good sport that he is, he suppressed his anger and sent the following telegram:

Stroudsburg, Pa., Aug. 10, 1919. Banquet Committee, Skirt Cloth Dressmakers' Union, Local 23, Intl Lady Garment Workers, Beethoven Hall, 210 East 5th St., New York City.

Hail to you! Hail to your great leadership and the great victory achieved, in which I rejoice with you, though absent.

S. YANOFSKY.

Talk about telegrams, we may as well mention the fact that Brother R. Guskin, chairman of the United Hebrew Trades wired the following to the merry-makers of Local 23:

Liberty, N. Y., Aug. 10-11, 1919 Skirt and Cloth Dressmakers' Union, Local 23, International LTMU

231 East 14th St., New York. Greetings! Accept my thanks for invitation. Regret that preventing engagements out-of-town prevents me from attending your affair. Am sending my best wishes for your future success. May all your work be crowned with glory.

R. GUSKIN.

The banquet season is not over yet. Local 17 is going to be at it on Saturday night, and Local 10 will be cutting it up in the near future. We don't doubt that we shall hear from them.

THE WEEK

By S. Y.

THE CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE HIGH COST OF LIVING

Judging from President Wilson's message on the high cost of living, it seems that something will be undertaken shortly to curb the profiteers, although it is difficult to foresee to what extent the relief measures suggested by the president will be effective.

The president himself stated that his proposed remedies would not put an end to the high cost of living. The fact that peace is still hanging in the air makes it impossible to find the proper and effective measures against the enormous cost of living. Yet something can be undertaken even now. For the causes of the high cost of living are largely artificial. Eggs, butter, bread, meat, clothing, and other necessities are high not because of insufficient supply. President Wilson proved statistically that this contention is unfounded. The real cause of the cost of living is that the persons in control of commodities have made a sort of conspiracy to maintain high prices.

Products have been hoarded and cornered in order to create a semblance of shortage and to boost the prices. The real cause of the high cost of living is the profiteers, small and large. It is they who practise extortion at the expense of the people, and it is against them that the government can use certain measures, such as continuing the government control of food, the requisitioning of food stuffs and the placing them on the open market, the fixing of the prices of essential commodities, etc. These and similar measures will make it impossible for the middle man to charge unreasonably high prices.

In his message the president touched on the question of high wages. He admitted that under the circumstances it was not surprising that the workers constantly demand increases in wages, but at the same time he did not see what good strikes and threats would do in this respect. The president thinks that strikes and demands of higher wages tend to aggravate the situation still further.

The president also spoke of the extreme leaders of organized labor, meaning the leaders of the brotherhoods and the railway shopmen.

He believed he said that the more extreme leaders of organized labor would soon consult their better judgment and act like genuine Americans. The president would come to realize that at the present critical moment strikes tend to make things worse for themselves and others.

The most fatal thing that can be done now, in the opinion of the president, is to suspend or interrupt production or to obstruct the distribution of commodities through the rail and waterways of the country. The entire population, he said, is affected by the deplorable results of the high cost of living, and to remedy matters forces must be united and not disjointed.

No remedy is possible, in the opinion of Mr. Wilson, when the parties concerned manifest a spirit of distemper and no solution is possible unless the interests of all elements of the population are kept in view. Threats and pres-

sure on the part of one class make a settlement impossible.

It is interesting to note that some portions of the president's message were applauded by democrats, others only by republicans; but that when the president spoke of the futility and harmfulness of strikes the applause was general.

THE STRIKE OF THE RAILWAY SHOPMEN

At the time of the present writing the strike of the railway shopmen is still on, and it is reported that the number of strikers is increasing. Whether the shopmen intend to go on with their strike until their demand of higher wages is met or whether they will take the advice of the president and return to work awaiting the decision of Mr. Hines, Director-General of Railroads, is as yet uncertain. On Thursday, August 14, the shopmen were to meet in convention at Chicago and adopt a decision as to their future course of action.

In the letter which president Wilson wrote to the Director-General and which was really intended for the striking shopmen, he states explicitly that unless the shopmen return to work and recognize the authority of their international leaders, who did not sanction the strike, the Director-General ought not to give consideration to their demands. The president stated that the government would treat only with authorized international officials and with no others. He also explained why the demands of the shopmen filed in the month of April were not given consideration until July. The reason is that the wage board which was to make the award was busy with other matters and when the shopmen's case was finally taken up an agreement could not be reached. Now, however, the case will be taken up by the Director General together with the authorized representatives of the shopmen, but before this is done the latter must return to work. With a few exceptions the shopmen have ignored the president's advice.

A HAPSBURG AS DICTATOR OF HUNGARY

The new semi-Socialist, semi-bourgeois government of Hungary which took the place of the Bolshevik dictatorship of Bela Kun lasted only a few days, and now Hungary has another dictator, the Archduke Joseph of the Hapsburg dynasty.

In keeping with the principles involved in this world war, the Allies should regard this as a calamity. Another Hapsburg on the throne! And this after five years of war waged to put an end to the Hohenzollern and Hapsburg pest. But it seems that the Allies are quite satisfied with this change in government and the impression is that the Hapsburg court d'etat was carried out with their consent. We are loath to believe this, for should we admit the possibility we must also consider it possible that the Allies may aid Wilhelm to regain his throne. The fact is, however, that the Allies are not greatly shocked at the Hapsburg dictatorship, and the possibility is not excluded that this representations for recogni-

tion will be viewed with favor. The possibility is still greater in view of the fact that the Hapsburg Archduke promised to wipe out every trace of Bolshevism and pledged to carry out all of the Allied peace conditions. And to make things appear even smoother the duke assured that as soon as order would be restored he would call a national assembly at which the true representatives of the Hungarian people would decide upon their future form of government.

ENGLAND STILL IN A STATE OF UNREST

Before one strike comes to an end a dozen new strikes break out. The truth of the matter is that none of the recent strikes has been settled yet. From the reports of last week it looked that the police strike in London was a failure. But later reports indicate that the strike is far from being ended and that workers of various industries are planning to go out on sympathy strike. The whole trouble in Liverpool arose on account of the sympathy with the striking policemen. The situation in Liverpool is still serious. A general strike of bakers broke out in Liverpool and the city was for some time in danger of being starved out. The great strike of the Yorkshire miners involving 200,000 workers still continues. The demands of the miners would be granted if not for the danger that the miners in other parts of the country would follow their example, which would mean a revolution in the industries of the country.

A general situation in England is very tense. The triple alliance—the railway workers, the miners, and the transport workers, continue to vote on the question of direct action, and this keeps the country in a state of nervousness. According to the latest report from England the government, after a long investigation, discovered a conspiracy to overthrow the existing order of government and to establish Soviet rule. This of course increased the panic still more, though it is probable that the conspiracy is a fictitious one. The situation in England and throughout Europe was characterized by Arthur Anderson, the English labor leader, in the following words: "Before the arrival of winter a frightful spasm of indignation and despair will break out among the nations of Europe, in which the remnants of civilization will be destroyed."

ALL IS WELL THAT ENDS WELL

The International Labor Congress at Amsterdam ended much better than it had been expected. It is reported that complete harmony marked the conclusion of the congress.

Of course, it could not be expected that after five years of bitterness and hatred much practical work would be accomplished at the International Labor Congress, but the very fact that the labor representatives of the erstwhile enemy countries met and prepared the grounds for further fruitful activities is in itself a great accomplishment. We must also remember that several radical resolutions were passed in regards to Russia, The League of Nations, and socialization of production. The American delegates voted against the resolutions because they had been instructed to do so, though personally they are in accord with the spirit of these resolutions.

MOONEY "FRAME-UP" BY ANTI-UNIONISTS.

The conviction of Thomas J. Mooney was secured by a "frame up" that was influenced "by local corporate interests most bitterly opposed to union labor."

The above summarizes a report to congress by John B. Densmore, now director general of the United States employment service, who recently investigated the Mooney case as a special agent of the department of labor.

With the aid of assistants, Mr. Densmore visited San Francisco and conducted the inquiry without the knowledge of the authorities of that municipality. Some of the evidence was secured with the aid of a dictaphone placed in the office of District Attorney Fickert.

A record was taken of the conversations between Fickert, his assistants and witnesses for the prosecution, many of the most prominent being from San Francisco's underworld. When the report was read by government printing office officials, preparatory to being printed, they notified Speaker Gillet of the House of Representatives that much of these conversations were too obscene and profane to be printed. The speaker ordered these to be stricken from the printed document.

In his report, Mr. Densmore says that since the Oxman exposure, "the district attorney's case has melted steadily away until there is left" but an unsavory record of manipulation and perjury, further revelations having impeached the credibility of practically all the principal witnesses for the prosecution.

"And if any additional confirmation were needed of the inherent weakness of the case, the acquittal of Mrs. Mooney on July 27, 1917, and of Israel Weinberg in the following October would seem to supply it."

Advocates of a new trial for Mooney are laughing at the blundering tactics of Congressman Blanton, who is responsible for this additional publicity, that again proves their case.

The Texas lawmaker has been rambling around for the past several months attacking the United States employment service, Director Densmore, President Gompers and the trade union movement generally. The Densmore report on the Mooney case was placed in the hands of Secretary of Labor Wilson several weeks ago and the Texas representative saw a chance to again get in the limelight, so he introduced a resolution that congress be furnished with this report, which, he declared, would prove that the department of labor "defending anarchists and murderers."

The house adopted the resolution and as a tactician Blanton is shown to be equal to the German war crowd, as the very forces that he would protect are again exposed.

To pull himself out of the hole he dug, Mr. Blanton made one of his usual speeches. The burden of his song was: Every one who favors a new trial for Mooney is an anarchist.

Senator Sherman also made a speech on the report charging Mr. Densmore with "official mendacity." Mr. Sherman, however, declared in the United States Senate, on Feb. 25, 1918, that "most of us are talking to the gallery anyhow."

OUR RAINCOAT MAKER LOCALS

By L. FINKELSTEIN

Our International includes also raincoat maker locals — 7, 20, 4, 102, 111 of Boston, New York, Chicago, Montreal and Cleveland respectively.

None of the locals has a large membership for the simple reason that the industry itself is a comparatively small one. Though the raincoat is a staple garment it is not an indispensable one, and with the present prohibitive price of clothing one tries to manage without a waterproof coat. And since the industry is small there is no room in it for large unions, even if it should be 100 per cent unionized, which has not been the case with the raincoat industry.

The largest of the raincoat makers' locals in local 20 of New York, which has just won its general strike and with it all the conditions of work enjoyed by the cloakmakers. This local has a membership of 2,000 and quite a few thousand dollars in its treasury.

During the war all raincoat maker locals were flourishing. The raincoat maker became a privileged person who could command advantages because of his occupation. The American government placed large orders for slickers and gas masks. The gas masks were made of the same material as used for raincoats and also in the same factories. During the war all raincoat maker locals greatly increased their membership because many sailors of other crafts entered the trade. Practically all the old raincoat makers who kept up the Union before the war became cemen-ters, while the new ones took to operating. There was also a small number of finishers among them. The raincoat maker's local could have attained still larger proportions during the war if they had been a bit stricter with their fellow workers from other locals. Many members of local 10, 11 and 17 were working in shops controlled by local 20 and the latter did not seek to debar them from these shops.

They were not asked to transfer to local 20. A letter from the secretary of his local certifying to his good standing was sufficient as credentials for the applicant from any local of the International. Only those who were not members of the International had to join the Raincoatmakers' Union, and it is this element that helped swell the memberships of the raincoat makers' locals during the war.

This was the period of the greatest prosperity in the history of the raincoat makers' locals in the United States and Canada.

With the signing of the armistice there came a reaction in the raincoat industry. The government countermanded most of the orders for slickers and gas masks and the prosperity in the raincoat shops came to an end. Many shops closed down entirely and the remaining ones at once proceeded with "reconstruction." They began the work of transition "from a war to a peace footing" and again confined themselves to making raincoats for civilians. The influx of new workers into the industry during the war made the back flow appear as a veritable exodus. Things began looking ugly for the old members in the raincoat trade. Fortunately for the latter the

Executive Boards of the raincoat makers' locals foresaw what was to come. Acting on the very plausible theory that the war would not go on forever they set about drawing up plans for the future, and in the heat of the prosperity in the trade they proceeded to strengthen the organizations so that they may withstand the coming reaction. As soon as the war contracts came to an end the directing bodies of the raincoat makers' locals launched a feverish campaign of organization in the civil shops, and much has been accomplished. Local 7 of Boston succeeded in organizing a number of shops that had never before been organized, not even during the war, and the same is true of local 24 of Chicago and 102 of Montreal. The latter local took advantage of the cloak makers' strike of that city and succeeded to a very considerable degree in improving the condition of work of members of the Rain Coat-Makers' Union.

Also in Cleveland the raincoat makers of local 111 are on the alert. Altogether there are in the city about 75 persons engaged in making raincoats, and the membership of local 111 is somewhere near that figure. The union made the demands upon the manufacturers similar to those of local 20 of New York, and if the Cleveland raincoat manufacturers will not agree to them there will be a strike of raincoat makers also in Cleveland.

On the whole New York is leading in the raincoat industry. Local 20 has the largest membership and is the first raincoat makers' local to demand a 44-hour week, a minimum wage, week-work and other improvements similar to those gained by the cloak makers.

The raincoat makers strike in New York ended in a victory for the workers. The victory is a result of the organization campaign launched by local 20 during the reconstruction period when the shops changed from a war to a peace basis, and again took to raincoats for civilians instead of making slickers and gas masks.

The new management of the union has infused new life and vigor into it. Brother Wesley, the new manager and Brother Sam Friedman, the new secretary, spared no efforts to raise local 20 to its present level. They were aided in this work by the members of their Executive Board, Brothers Sacks, Stamper, Heller, Weisman and others. Both the officials and the members of the Executive Board enjoy the full confidence of the rank and file, which is the main reason for their success on behalf of the local.

In the strike the Raincoat Makers' Union had the full support of the International. Secretary Baroff and vice president J. Halpern and Fannie M. Cohn were appointed to help directing the strike.

The raincoat makers' locals throughout the country succeeded in strengthening their position in spite of the reaction that set in as a result of the transition of the industry to a peace-time basis, only because of the foresight of the executive bodies, which so to it that the gains secured by the raincoat makers during the war remain not only intact but even augmented by further gains.

ORGANIZING IRON AND STEEL WORKERS

By N. C.

Western Pennsylvania, where corporate power has been more strongly entrenched politically than in any other considerable section of the country, is rapidly awakening to the fact that the American Federation of Labor is going to contest the time honored practice of subordinating the U. S. Constitution to the eccentric police regulation of the different boroughs and cities along the Monongahela River. In other words, the American Federation of Labor is standing four-square for the rights of free speech and free assembly — the autocratic edicts of some of the municipal czars to the contrary notwithstanding.

In Braddock, Rankin, Donora and Homestead, the right to hold meetings seems to have been established. To bring this about has not been easy.

In Donora, it was necessary for more than three months to hold meetings on a mountain side. Men organize slowly under these handicaps. Gradually, however, they came into the organization. Now, a very large percentage of the men working in the mammoth steel mills of that place are in the union. Business men, who at the beginning of the campaign tried to intimidate the organizers and cause them to withdraw from the field, are now feeling the displeasure of the men who, as far as possible, are buying goods from merchants less opposed to the cause of labor. As is usual, these merchants are whining. This whine is being reflected by the borough officials, so that now permits for meetings can be had and halls can be secured under practically the same conditions as in the other parts of the United States.

In Braddock, five organizers were jailed for trying to speak on the streets after the halls of that place had been successfully closed against them for seven months. The Burgess was out of town when the cases came on for trial. The acting official said he refused to do the dirty work of the Burgess and the cases were continued. This led to newspaper controversy. When Burgess Callahan finally returned, he found indignation at white heat. He is a wise man. He discharged the organizers, returned the bail money, and directed the Chief of Police to issue permits for all the meetings desired.

Secretary Fostere of the National Committee and A. F. of L. Organizer Beaghen had been a few days before hailed before the municipal court of Homestead, which was presided over by Burgess McGuire, a former union man but now entirely over it, promptly convicted and duly fined them for daring to exercise a right on the 5th day of July that had been so noisily celebrated on the 4th of July. Then the Burgess discovered that he too must have a vacation. Since then the town has seen him not. In the meantime, the Acting Burgess has assured organizers that meetings in the future would be undisturbed.

McKeesport, the storm center of the free speech fight for months bids fair to stay the center. It is true Mayor Lysle announced in the press some weeks ago that he would give permits. He did, but like a 1918 German peace-proposal, he had so many strings to

them that if enforced they would be worthless. He insisted that before all meetings he should be given a list of the speakers, that no foreign speakers would be put on, and that no criticisms of the local officials would be indulged in. Since the American Federation of Labor is standing for its full rights in the premises, these proposals were contentiously refused. Efforts were made to make Mayor Lysle see that deaf and dumb speakers were worthless at a blind man's meeting, so were English speakers unable to make themselves understood among workmen who could only understand foreign languages.

Picketing, be it known, is unlawful in Pennsylvania — for union men. This does not appear to apply to the steel companies, for each of the two hall meetings that have been held in McKeesport has been preceded by meetings in the offices of the steel companies where all the bosses, stool pigeons and office men have been ordered to picket our meeting halls. This they have done in six and seven hundred lots. They have all but blocked the entrances to the halls, they have jeered at the speakers, they have tried their best to start something. In their demonstrations they have been under the personal direction of a Mr. Cornelius, a local superintendent. The Mayor, who was much worried at the crowds of speakers attracted on the streets cannot see the crowd of bosses who try by every scheme known to men of that type to break up meetings. They have a free hand. Policemen who used to swarm at our street meetings are not to be seen in the vicinity of our hall meeting. In addition to all this, men are being discharged from the plant in wholesale lots. Most of them are among the oldest employees. This reveals a double purpose on the part of the company. They hope to intimidate the men and prevent their joining the union and also to be relieved from the payments of old age pensions, under which plan these men would soon become beneficiaries.

But the plans of both the Mayor and the company are not working out well. The Mayor gets no list of speakers, men speak in any language the needs demand and criticisms fly thick and fast at most of the meetings. The company picketing does not break up the meetings, and the spies are not able to "start something." The discharged men are not frightened, but are indignant. The loss of pensions will be overcome by the men getting through their new organizations sufficient wages so that they will not have to depend in their old age on company charity. Steel workers are getting a new vision, they can see freedom ahead of them.

If free speech cannot be secured in Pennsylvania, it is in danger everywhere. The Pittsburgh district thus becomes not only the center of the fight for the right of the steel workers to organize, but it becomes in consequence the center of the fight for the re-establishment of our most fundamental rights. In a fight of this character, every forward looking citizen should take an interest, and every organized worker should stand ready to take a part.

JUSTICE

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A. BAROFF, Sec'y-Treas.

S. YANOFSEK, Editor
R. LIENHARTMAN, Business Mgr.

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EDITORIALS

THE TRIUMPH OF UNIONISM

The strike of the employees of the B. R. T., a company that is most notorious for its abuse of both its employees and the public, is of great significance in more than one respect.

To begin with, the strike served as occasion for utterances which had been considered antiquated and moth-eaten years ago.

Lindley M. Garrison, receiver of the B. R. T. and former Secretary of War, does not seem to realize what is taking place about him; he does not seem to know that there is no longer an employer who will dare say that the workers have no right to organize, and that he will not treat with their representatives.

The far-reaching events of our times seem not to have left any traces at all upon Mr. Garrison.

A committee of the B. R. T. employees submitted to Garrison in writing the following demands on behalf of all the workers:

1. Reinstatement of all employees discharged on account of union activity.

2. The recognition of the Union to which the B. R. T. employees belong.

3. An increase in wages for all employees; 75c an hour for all trainmen, and an equal proportional increase for all other employees.

An eight hour labor day. To these demands Mr. Garrison replied that he would not recognize the union nor treat with it; that he considered the "Amalgamated Association of Street and Railway Electric Employees" an outside organization which has nothing to do with the affairs of the B. R. T. and its employees; that he was willing to negotiate with his own employees and also with their representatives, but that he would have none of these "outsiders."

This fossilized philosophy of the employer of long ago had the effect of a spar in a powder magazine, and the B. R. T. employees went out on strike.

And the strike demonstrated the silliness of the arguments of the ex-secretary of war. At the signal of the "outside" organization to which, according to Mr. Garrison, less than 20 per cent of the employees belonged, all the surface and elevated service of the B. R. T. was tied up, and the few cars that ventured out of the barns were abandoned by the crews before they made their first trip.

From the very first hour of the strike it was obvious that the outside organization with which the receiver would have no dealings was really very much at home with the employees.

There was only one thing left for the company to do, and that was to incite the strikers to acts of violence—a method often resorted to by employers as their last card.

For close upon the acts of violence comes the police with its drastic tactics; strikers are arrested by the hundred and murderously beaten; the sympathies of the public are alienated from the strikers, and in a strike of this sort public opinion is a very important factor, for should the public be against the strikers, the strike is as good as lost. But the trick did not work. The police did not want to be too "energetic" in handling the strike, and while it was doing its duty it was doing it without over-zeal. Mayor Hylan with his moderate attitude expressed very well the sentiments of the Brooklyn public. The people hate the B. R. T. so much that even if they had to suffer greater inconveniences during the strike they would have done it gladly out of sheer vengeance against the company.

The resentment was all the greater because the public service commission, two days before the strike, made a handsome gift of a few million dollars to the B. R. T. by sanctioning a charge of two cents for every transfer. It would have been but fair if the workers got a share of this greatly increased income of the B. R. T. and the public considered the demands of the employees as no more than just and moderate. The public clearly showed its sympathy with the strikers in spite of all the hue and cry of the capitalist press with its hypocritical clamor about law and order, and with its denunciation of the strike as a veritable revolution, a term used also by the ex-secretary of war to characterize the walk-out of the B. R. T. employees.

What were the results? After four days of the strike, the Czar autocrat, Lindley M. Garrison was forced to capitulate. He will have to deal with the representatives of the union and submit their demands to arbitration.

The conclusions that may be drawn from the strike are obvious. It is plain that the stale argument about an "outside" union has lost all its appeal not only with the workers but also with the general public. The strike also shows that with the sympathy of the public on the side of the strikers all the foul methods of the employers, such as provoking violence and inviting police repression, are of no avail; it shows once more that a strike of the prostituted press is opposed to all violence when directed against private property, it is heartily in favor of violence when it is to be used to keep labor in slavery. The press is indignant against Mayor Hylan because he did not instruct the police to break the strike at all costs. The press considers it an outrage that strikers' heads were not split, that hundreds of strikers were not arrested, that the police did not act in a spirit of savagery and brutality. Attempts may even be made to pre-

fer charges against some of the policemen for neglect of duty.

The prostitutes of the pen whose words are always honey when they speak of peace between capital and labor and who condemn terror on the part of the outraged workers, have nothing but murder and bestiality in their heart when it comes to a question of suppressing workers who are impudent enough to demand 75c an hour and an eight hour labor day—demands that are so wild and revolutionary that receiver Garrison could not believe they were made in earnest.

HYLAN'S PLAN FOR CITY BUS LINES

Whether the strike of the B. R. T. will teach the company a lesson and will modify its attitude both to the public and its employees remains to be seen. We, on our part, are inclined to doubt it. We rather believe that the event of last week will recur in the future, and the question arises what is to be done to put an end to the plundering of the public and the employees by the car companies? The Plumb plan, proposed by the railway brotherhoods in regard to the national railways, may apply also in this case. There is no reason why the city should not operate the cars in co-operation with the workers to the satisfaction of all concerned. Mayor Hylan, however, has another plan, not so far-reaching as the Plumb plan, but practical enough to check the inordinate appetites of our car companies. His plan is that the city should build buses for the streets, thus relieving congestion and serving as a means of competing with the traction trust of greater New York.

The plan may be effective to a certain extent in curbing the profit-list of the car companies, but it is to be doubted whether it will be of much aid to the car employees. For while the latter find it very difficult to wrest concessions from the hated private companies, which are anything but beloved by the general public. They will find it next to impossible to gain concessions as the immediate employees of the city. A strike on their part will be impossible, for all the organized forces of the city will be used to break it.

None the less Mayor Hylan's plan must be considered a step forward. It shows that the dawn of the new is beginning to break in places least expected. The Central Federated Union, for instance, adopted a resolution which reads as follows:

"Whereas, the private ownership of the transit systems of this city has demonstrated its incompetence in operating these public utilities, because of the inefficiency of the management and their reactionary and tyrannical opposition to legitimate railway labor organizations; therefore be it resolved, That the Central Federated Union, representing 500,000 organized workers, again reaffirms its unqualified approval of the principle of public ownership and operation of public utilities."

"And be it further resolved that the Central Federated Union approves of the publicly announced plan of Mayor Hylan to establish publicly operated lines of buses throughout the city as being a beneficial and reasonable method to bring relief to the present insufficient transit system of the city."

ANOTHER NOBLE DEED BY THE CENTRAL FEDERATED UNION

A new spirit seems to be dominating the Central Federated Union. It is almost impossible to recognize this conservative, if not reactionary, labor body of the recent past. Reading the resolution it adopted in regard to Russia, one hardly believes that it was sanctioned by this body.

The resolution is significant for three reasons.

First, a similar resolution was rejected by the A. F. of L. Convention, and this shows that the convention in this particular did not express the sentiments of all American labor, for at least half a million workers are of quite the opposite opinion.

Secondly, this resolution shows clearly that the venom spread by the American press and the various investigation committees in regard to the events in Russia has had an effect opposite from that intended.

Thirdly, the resolution makes it clear that Messrs. Holland and Frayne who conducted themselves so disgracefully at a hearing of the Lusk Committee, are imposters and do not represent the sentiment of organized labor in New York, that the organized workers in their political views tower far above the two demagogues and politicians. We may add here that the following resolution which we quote verbatim was unanimously adopted and without opposition.

"We, as citizens of the United States, call upon the Congress of the United States to take action in the present Russian situation which shall bring about the continuation of the blockade against Russia, this blockade is bringing death by starvation to hundreds of thousands every month.

"We urge the recall of all American troops in Russia and the abandonment of attempts to secure special troops for service there. That is not service for the soldiers of democracy.

"We do most earnestly protest against the conniving or collaborating of our Government with any counter-revolutionary groups such as those of Kolchak or Denikin, servants of a discredited monarchical regime.

"We hold that the American Government must do nothing that will hinder the Russian people from determining their own form of Government in accordance with their own economic and political ideas.

"In sum, we call upon Congress to exercise its constitutional functions for the purpose of creating a generously democratic foreign policy, consistent with traditions of a nation which cherishes the honorable memories of the revolution by which it was founded and the civil war by which it was perpetuated."

Our felicitations to the delegates to the Central Federated Union of New York. With this noble and generous resolution they removed the stain upon their reputation and made it clear what they think of the slanderers of the Holland and Frayne kind.

LABOR-UNION CONGRESSMEN

By B. MEIMAN

III.

HON. PATRICK McLEAN

Pennsylvania is a Republican state, but it generally sends also a few Democrats to the Congress. Patrick McLean, a labor union congressman, is one of them.

Mr. McLean has fewer claims to representation of labor than the rest of the labor congressmen, though he may be considered more of a workman than all of the rest. He has never before held political office, if we do not count his membership on the Board of Education, which carries no monetary compensation. All his life he has been working hard for a living. His day's work was his only means of subsistence. He has not been active in politics more than the average citizen without personal political ambitions. He was swept into the House of Representatives by the election tide. He denies that he was elected by organized labor. He ran on the Democratic ticket and was elected simply as a Democrat.

Mr. McLean does not deny the fact of his belonging to a union. But he is not particularly proud of it, either. He is a member of a labor union because the work he was doing for a living necessitated his belonging to a union. He was a member of his union because the rest of his fellow workers were. He never was a labor leader and never sought to become one.

He is not even familiar with general questions of unionism. He is not acquainted with the political policies of the American Federation of Labor, not to speak of European labor organizations. When you question him about the stand taken by American labor on various domestic and foreign events and policies he is at a loss as to what to answer you, and you see that he would be doubly grateful to you if you let him alone.

When I asked Mr. McLean whether in his opinion it would be wise for American labor to organize a Labor Party of its own he looked at me in utter surprise and with suspicion, as if doubting my sanity.

"What for?" he replies with a question. Yankee fashion.

"To defend the specific labor interests," I try to enlighten him. "But the Democratic party can do it and is doing it," he replies still amazed at my absurd question and answer.

His tone of voice convinces me more than his words that he is sincere and earnest. He is not a professional politician who praises his party as a matter of loyalty and party discipline, and he knows that he speaks to a newspaper man and not to a voter of his district on the eve of election. He speaks with genuine pride about his party. "The Democratic party has accomplished wonders for the workers in the last few years," says Mr. McLean.

"During Wilson's administration a great deal of legislation favorable to labor has been enacted. The Adamson 8 hour law is only one of the many instances. The workers need not and must not have a party of their own. The Democratic Party is giving them support and they ought to reciprocate."

"And what about specific labor demands?" I ask the Congressman.

"This is all right; in this I agree with you. Labor has to set forth its special demands and thru its votes force the political parties to incorporate these demands in their platforms. But an independent labor party would merely divide the forces of labor and this would make favorable labor legislation impossible."

"It is to be inferred that you are entirely in accordance with the A. F. of C. as regards the participation of labor in politics?"

"Well," says Mr. McLean, "I am not quite familiar with the political policies of the American Federation of Labor. Won't you please state it to me?"

I stated as best I could the "ex-politics" of the Federation heads, and the congressman liked it very much.

"That's right!" he exclaimed. "We must punish our political enemies and reward our friends."

And he cites instances of both punishment and reward meted out by workers to their political enemies and friends respectively. He recalls instances in his own district.

"In 1902 we had a labor candidate running in our district, but the workers voted the Republican ticket and he was defeated. In 1906, on the other hand, Mr. Nichols, ex-president of the local mines' union won on the Democratic ticket, and although only a small number of workmen, usually Republican voters, cast their vote for him, he was carried into office. If the workers voted intelligently, supporting those that are with them, they would have many more friends in the congress. And it is in the old

parties that they ought to seek their friends. An independent Labor Party will deprive them of the advantage they could command in the old parties."

Mr. McLean, in his opposition to a Labor Party, goes even further than the rest of the labor congressmen. He would combat a Labor Party even if it could prove strong and command the labor vote. He is opposed to such a party in principle. "I would not take orders from unions," he said firmly. "The unions do not represent the majority of American labor. There are about 4 million organized workers out of an adult labor population of 20 million. And then what about the farmers? Organized labor does not represent nor include the interests of the farmers, the mainstay of our population. I want to represent the interests of the people but not of the unions exclusively."

Being a man well in the forties Mr. McLean is in his full manly vigor. Tall, well-built, of more than average physical strength, he proves to be also a man of more than average will power. His manner of speech is quiet but firm. When he looks at you he focuses his eyes on you and you feel as if he pierces you with his glance. His glance, his stature, his manners, his every move spells strength. He produces the impression of a fighter. He seems to be a man of firm convictions ready to defend them with might and main. But his convictions, his faith in the excellence of the Democratic Party are so naive that the workers can profit very little by his manly qualities. Mr. McLean may be of a fighting quality, but he is a child in politics, and it will take him a long

time to attain political maturity. That Mr. McLean is ready to combat even his political superiors, not to speak of labor leaders, is shown by his attitude toward the immigration question. We can state with a clear conscience that on this question Mr. McLean's attitude is better than that of the rest of our labor union congressmen. He is absolutely opposed to debarring "fit" immigrants from this country. He is himself an immigrant, having come from Ireland in 1882. At the age of ten, three years after his arrival, he began working in the mines. He was paid 4 cents an hour. Mr. McLean speaks of this period of his life with clenched fists, and his indignant look is more eloquent than words in depicting the tragedy of worker's life which he began in the bloom of childhood. He knows the life of the poor from his own experience; he also knows the life of the immigrants and their part in the economic affairs of the country. He knows that America owes to the immigrant a large portion of her industrial achievements and successes, and he cannot agree with the A. F. of L. that the states of the country must be locked to such as himself and his parents. "I will fight to the limit of my abilities," he said, "to prevent the shutting of our gates to immigrants. Union or no union, I am opposed to it, because I consider it an injustice."

As I look at this strong man, the typical American worker, I am torn by conflicting feelings. I admire this sincerity and determination of the people's representative, who is ready to fight to the last ditch for a cause that he considers just. But at the same time, it is painful to realize that he is far from typifying the new, idealist, forward-looking workers. His education is scanty, his vision is narrow, his views are stale and outworn. What can a man of this type contribute to the cause of those who toil?

Ireland, the Political Curse of England

By N. BUCHWALD

Though it has become the fashion to hail every emancipatory movement without even knowing its aims and aspirations, it is by no means a bad thing to acquaint oneself with the facts of the matter, even if such an acquaintance is to dampen somewhat the ready enthusiasm.

The most sensational emancipatory movement of to-day is undoubtedly the Irish. It is particularly popular in America, where prominent personages, writers, statesmen, of both radical and conservative camps are enthusiastic about the Irish Republic, which has been founded recently, naturally without the consent and recognition of England. De Valera, the president of the Irish Republic has been given ovations in every part of the United States he has visited, and not only ovations, but also hundreds of thousands of dollars for the Irish Republic.

The considerable Irish element in the population of the country, the high political and social positions occupied by the Irish account for the popularity of the Irish cause in America, and it is all the more surprising that President Wilson who is generally sensitive to the voice of the people and who holds a monopoly over

the emancipation, has not found it necessary or possible even to express his sympathy with Irish freedom.

The man in the street should really be surprised at the stubbornness displayed by England in denying the Irish their seemingly elementary rights. For it is a well known fact that England's colonies and peoples are both wise and practical. The secession of the American colonies in 1776 taught England a lesson. The initiation fee was immense — the United States of America — but the experience was worth it. England came to realize that if she was to retain the rest of her colonial territories she must grant them complete autonomy in their internal political and economic affairs. And so she did. All her colonies enjoy full independence in ordering their internal political and economic affairs. Even India, the richest of all the British colonies both in population and resources, has not entirely lost her independence, and the English government has been trying to introduce self-government in India in so far as it is capable with the nature of the backward local population. Moreover, the first radical labor government was, without a revolution, estab-

lished in the Australian colonies, and the mother country did not even object against this piece of radicalism, not to speak of direct interference.

How it is, then, that England is so stubborn, so brutal when it comes to Ireland? There is trick in shouting "edpotism," "oppression," "arbitrary rule," etc. We are not trying to defend England, but we think that cuss words cannot explain this contradiction in her policies.

Any one at all familiar with English history knows that the Irish question has been the rock against which more than one cabinet was dashed to pieces. The history of political parties in England for the last half century is intimately interwoven with the Irish problem.

We will not go into the details of the history of Ireland. It cannot be done in a newspaper article. We will omit the uprisings in Ireland, and the inhuman atrocities with which they were quelled by England. Cruel as the English policy was in regard to Ireland; crushing as the economic rule of the English barons was in that unhappy land; unbearable as the lot of the Irish peasantry was, — these are not the worst

things in the history of Ireland. The English government has carried out radical agrarian reforms which greatly alleviated the lot of the peasants. The policy of oppression has given way to one of leniency and toleration. The economic rule of the absentee landlords has been greatly weakened. Yet the "Irish question," the cause of English politics is as critical as ever.

What is the crux of the Irish question? The fact that Ireland is not united; that a portion of the population is just as passionate in opposing the independence of the country as the other portion is in championing it. Ulster, the anti-Irish part of Ireland, is a kind of political, social and religious island, surrounded on all sides by organic Irish provinces.

The religious strife in England, which had so profound an influence upon the history of the whole continent and which is responsible for the founding of our own country, has caused a certain religious sect to emigrate to Ireland. There the zealots settled in a compact mass and devoted themselves to trade and industry. In a short time Ulster became the industrial and commercial center of Ireland.

Politically the Ulsterites remained loyal to England, if for no other reason, because the Irish, all of them Catholics, were their religious opponents, and according to the conceptions of those days, their bitterest enemies. This enmity has not been weakened with time, and to-day Ireland is hopelessly divided into two hostile camps. There is no doubt that if Ireland were independent things would be made hot for the Ulsterites. The latter know it and hence their vehement opposition to Irish freedom.

The English government must thus reckon with two irreconcilable elements. To satisfy one means to arouse the opposition of the other and to make the solution of the Irish question as remote as ever. The Sinn-Feiners, the Irish patriots, insist on the complete political independence of Ireland. This England cannot grant them, for it would amount to encouraging secession on the part of the rest of her colonies, and it would precipitate civil war in Ireland, since the Ulsterites would rise against their new ruler. This would be no solution of the question.

The moderate patriots of Ireland would be contented with home rule, and England would be only too happy to give it to them. But Ulster would have none of it. Ulster does not want to be under Irish rule, under the rule of the hated Catholics. Just as the Irish are rebellious in demanding their freedom, so are the Ulsterites rebellious in their insistence that things remain as they are, for the freedom of Ireland, they maintain, means the enslavement of Ulster.

For half a century England has been seeking in vain a satisfactory solution of the Irish question. Her best statesmen could not cope with the problem. The questions of right or wrong is irrelevant, of course, the Irish are right and their demands should be granted; but what is to be done with Ulster? How are both sides to be reconciled?

This is the stumbling block. This is the political ulcer that can be neither removed nor cured.

IN THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF LOCAL 25

A meeting of the Executive Board of the Ladies' Waist and Dressmakers' Union, Local No. 25 was held on Tuesday evening, August 4th, 1919, at Beethoven Hall, 210 East 5th Street, with Brother E. Lieberman in the chair.

A committee of the workers of Mitchel & Weber's shop, complained that the firm sends out work while the inside workers are going idle. After the explanation of Brother J. Shapiro regarding the situation in the shop, it was decided to refer this matter to the Board of Directors for action.

The committee which was elected at the last meeting of the Executive Board to look for a suitable candidate for the office of Chief Clerk of our union submitted their report. They had under consideration various people, and after considering the fitness of each, had decided that Brother Finkelstein, who held a similar position at the New York Board of Cloakmakers' Union for the past few years, should be appointed. The recommendations of the committee were unanimously adopted.

Elections for different standing committees were taken up and the following were elected:

Membership Committee: Sadie Reich, Chairlady; Fannie Jockel, Harry Weissglass, Pauline Stein, Frank Liberti.

Grievance Committee: Anna Mintz, Chairlady; Harry Weissglass, Fannie Jockel, M. Malkin, Jacob Yasilevsky, M. Myerson, Arthur Peor, Secretary.

Board of Directors: M. Finkelstein, Chairman; I. Horowitz, H. Silberman, P. Stein, E. Reishberg, I. Leibowitz, L. Cohen, A. Yelnick.

Brother J. Leibowitz sent in a communication calling the attention of the Board to two vacancies on the Unity House Committee. Brother M. Guzman and Sister Camen were elected as members of this committee to fill the vacancies of the two members who were expelled from the Executive Board.

The committee which had been elected by the Executive Board sometime ago to study the program and aim of the Italian Chamber of Labor submitted a detailed report of their findings. The main aim of the above organization is to organize all non-organized Italian workers throughout the country. It is also their aim to have the organized workers take a more active participation in the affairs of Labor organizations. The Executive Board decided to pay \$100 as an initiation fee and join this body.

A communication was received from the American Freedom Convention which is to take place in Chicago, Illinois, on September 25-28, 1919. It is called for the purpose of the re-establishment and maintenance of American political and civil rights, free speech, free press and free assembly. Also, for the immediate release of all persons persecuted or in prison for political opinions, industrial activities or religious beliefs. The Executive Board decided to enforce the program of the American Freedom Convention. As to the question of a contribution, same was referred to the Finance Committee for action.

The committee elected by the Executive Board to create a sentiment for the establishment of a finishers', examiners', drapers' and cleaners' branch, submitted their report. At their last meeting it was decided:

1. That a special meeting of finishers', examiners', drapers' and cleaners' be called immediately after the members' meeting approval of the project.

2. That propaganda be started immediately through all possible channels to assure the finishers', drapers', examiners' and cleaners' of many active participation in the affairs of the union than they did up to now.

3. That the business agents and shop meeting attendants be instructed to take this matter up at shop meetings and call the above workers to activity.

The report and recommendations were approved.

The Organization Committee laid their plans for an organization campaign for the coming season, before the Executive Board. It was decided that in order to have the organization committee in a position to carry on its work successfully, two additional organizers be appointed to help Brother Weiss.

In reference to the organization

THE WEEK'S NEWS IN CUTTERS UNION LOCAL 10

By SAM B. SHENKER

DRESS AND WAIST PATTERNMAKERS MUST JOIN THE UNION

Strict orders have been issued to the Dress and Waist Business Agents to unionize every patternmaker found working in the Dress and Waist industry. This order is being enforced regardless to whether a patternmaker is occupied solely in that capacity.

The union has taken this stand on the principle that since a worker is a wage earner, no matter what his work may be, his place is in an organization of wage earners. Many patternmakers labor under the misapprehension that since they are employed as patternmakers their obligations towards their fellow workers cease and therefore they do not have to belong to the union. This is a false notion. So long as one hires himself out at a wage his place is in a labor organization.

Dress and Waist cutters are herewith instructed to report the employment of a non-union patternmaker. A Business Agent will forthwith proceed with getting him into the union.

Cutter-foremen, too, are not exempt from this rule. Cutters hired as foremen are of the opinion that once they are "elevated" to that position they no longer have any obligations to fulfill towards the union. It should be strictly borne in mind that a member of the union, no matter in what capacity he is hired, must secure a working card and is subject to the rules and regulations governing the Cutters' Union. Officers are determined to compel every foreman to secure a working card and make him live up to the rest of the provisions of the union's constitution.

CLOAK AND SUIT BRANCH

Aside from what was reported in these columns lately concerning

work out of town, the Organization Committee decided to call the officers of the International to call a special meeting of the New York General Executive Board, where a committee consisting of Sisters Matyas and Mollie Friedman and Brothers Guzman and Weiss will present their recommendations. The secretary was instructed to communicate with the offices of the International and inform them of this effect.

The Organization Committee also reported that according to the report of Brother Weiss, the Organizer, forty-three new shops were organized during the period of May 12th to August 5th. Twenty-one strikes were called in union shops due to different violations of the agreements. They also reported that the following three shops: Son & Ash, M. Stein and Solomon and Metzler are still on strike as a result of the general strike.

In reference to Altman's shop, the committee which was elected sometime ago, after the meeting of this shop appeared before the Executive Board asking to be reinstated, reported that after having a meeting with the members of this shop, it was decided to take them in as new members at the new initiation fee.

Report of the Conference Committee which was elected sometime ago by the Executive Board to confer with the representatives of the Contractors' Association was taken up.

the activities of this Branch of Local 10 there is little else to add, with the exception of the fact that the Business Agents are about to begin their seasonal control of the trade.

Manager Gorenstein is away this week and Business Agent Sharp, who has been appointed as acting manager, states that the trade is quite busy and therefore there are few complaints. Business Agents Bender and Lipshitz will begin controlling their districts. Business Agent Margulies has been acting Secretary to the Executive Board for the past two weeks, and immediately upon the resumption of this office by Secretary Rosenberg, he will take up his duties as Agent.

MISCELLANEOUS BRANCH

Thus far Jacob Fleisher has been appointed by the Executive as temporary Business Agent of this Branch to take the place of the Agent who resigned recently. At the coming meeting of this Branch, Monday August 18th, the appointment of Fleisher will be up before the membership for ratification.

At this meeting a detailed report of the situation as it is at present in the trades under the control of this Branch will be rendered. Plans for an intense reorganization of the Branch will probably also be laid before the membership.

VICTORY BANQUET NEARING

Arrangements for the big Victory Banquet of the union are fast nearing completion. Ticket are being sold at the office, 7 West 21st St., and by the Business Agents. The tickets are \$2.50 per person.

The members should by all means secure tickets. The affair promises to be the biggest ever.

Labor Items

HIGH COST OF LIVING AFFECTS N. Y. BABIES

In an investigation conducted by the municipal health department it is found that high prices of foodstuffs, children and adults of needed foods and retard recovery from illness.

The investigation was conducted by the nurses of the bureau of preventable diseases and 2,084 families were studied.

Special attention was given to the influence of the high cost of living on the children's dietary. In 293 families the use of bottled milk was given up. In 206 other families milk was entirely eliminated from the children's dietary, and in 71 the amount used for children was considerably reduced.

In 370 families the use of butter was eliminated for children; in 191 families the amount used was reduced.

Sugar was omitted from the children's diet in 71 families and reduced in 139 families. The use of meat in the diet of children was given up in 544 families and reduced in 238.

Eggs were entirely eliminated from the diet of children in 532 families and reduced in 107.

In 807 families meat was entirely eliminated. In 388 families the amount of meat purchased was appreciably reduced. In 882 families eggs were eliminated and in 615 families butter was eliminated.

In studying the convalescence from illness the nurses found that 287 cases out of 2183 were definitely retarded, due to inability to obtain essentials of life. Among the adults the total amount of wages lost, in this protracted period, was \$41,395.

"It may be amazing to many," it is stated, "that of these families representing a fairly cross section of conditions in New York city, 21 per cent should have a total income of \$900 a year or less for the support of an average family of five persons during the beginning of 1918. An additional 30.5 had a total income of from \$600 to \$900 a year, and about 21 per cent an income of from \$900 to \$1200 a year."

A little over 9 per cent of these families were compelled to accept charity and in 9.8 per cent of the homes the women were forced into industry.

WEARY OF NON-UNIONISM

"We are weary of attempting to operate on a non-union basis and want to reach an agreement with the International Moblers Union," is the substance of a statement to President Valente of that organization by a representative of the O. K. Stove and Range Company, Louisville, Ky.

The conference resulted in an understanding and the molding

And, importantly, the reception of the present 44-hour of work per week is an unprecedented gain, and one that ought to be celebrated.

Nearly the entire building of the Central Opera House, 67th Street, on Third Ave. has been secured for the dinner and dancing. Max Margulies, who is devoting a good deal of his time towards making the event a successful one, states that "it will exceed anything the cutters have yet arranged." Max Gorenstein is chairman and Elmer Rosenberg is secretary of the Banquet Committee.

department is now strictly union.

The importance of this voluntary action by the company can be appreciated when it is recalled that this concern is one of the best known stove companies in the south, and since a molders' strike 12 years ago has been non-union and has been pointed to by anti-union manufacturers as justifying their opposition to organized labor.

The company's alleged success was frequently commented on at meetings of southern foundry men and the plant has been the mecca of other employers to secure information on the company's success. But this success is now shown to be a sham, and the company acknowledges that non-unionism does not pay.

Officers of this international union declare that the incident is of tremendous importance to the southern stove industry.

STEEL TRUST WORKERS DISCUSS STRIKE

Pittsburg, Pa. — At a special meeting of the national committee for organizing iron and steel workers it was agreed that the 24 national and international having jurisdiction in these industries be asked to submit a strike vote to their memberships to enforce demands which include right of collective bargaining, reinstatement of men discharged for union activities, the eight-hour day, one day's rest in seven, abolition of 21 hour shifts, wage increases and double pay for overtime, standard wage scales for all crafts, check-off system of collecting union dues and assessment, seniority, abolition of company stores and abolition of physical examinations.

This action, it is stated, was made necessary by the refusal of Judge Gary, chairman of the steel trust's board of directors, to reply to a letter from President Gompers asking for a conference with steel executives to adjust conditions in the steel mills.

AGAINST BAN ON FOREIGN LANGUAGES

San Francisco. — In its annual report the state commission of immigration and housing says that when the war started it issued instructions in 16 languages on how the draft law must be obeyed.

The commission differs with prevailing public opinion that a knowledge of America's language is the immigrant's first essential in understanding America's ideals. The commission believes that talks in the language of the immigrant are a definite part of any adequate program of Americanization, and to wait for the immigrant to learn English before letting him become acquainted with America is to ignore the greatest necessity of his education.

Acting on this theory the commission's bureau of foreign-language speakers go among the foreign born of the state and make clear to them in their own tongue those things which perplex and baffle them in their new environment. They explain the laws which the foreign born transgress through ignorance; they learn the grievances of immigrant laborers in labor camps and act as mediators between them and their employers; they make clear to the newcomers their duties to their new country, as well as their rights and their privileges.

8 HOURS IN CANNERIES

San Francisco. — Cannery employees throughout the country have continuously resisted the establishment of the eight-hour day in this industry on the ground that their product would spoil.

This theory has been rejected by R. P. Merritt, former state food administrator, who was appointed by Governor Stephens to set a wage scale for male employees in canneries and dried fruit packing houses.

For the first time in the history of these industries they are now placed on an eight-hour basis and wages for unskilled labor for the 1919 season will be as follows:

First light hours, 45 cents an hour or \$3.60 for an eight-hour day; ninth hour and every hour thereafter, 55 cents an hour. The latter rate shall include work done on Sundays and six holidays.

The decision applies only to male employees. The state industrial welfare commission has ordered a minimum of 28 cents an hour or \$13.50 a week for experienced women canners and laborers. Cutting and preparing of fruit is on a piece-work basis, with a minimum of \$13.50 a week.

WIN THREE YEAR STRIKE

Pittsburg, Pa. — Three years ago union coal miners started an organizing campaign throughout the Allegheny valley. They were successful, except in the case of the McFetridge Brothers Coal Co. and the Pittsburg Plate Glass Co. The former concern, however, has agreed, after three years of fighting, to recognize the union and has signed an agreement similar to that signed by other union coal companies.

EVERY 8-HOUR BILL KILLED IN WISCONSIN

Madison, Wis. — The state legislature killed every eight-hour bill that has been introduced. The last one to get the axe provided for an eight-hour day for women employed in commercial establishments. This bill passed both branches of the legislature. Assemblyman Anderson of Kenosha asked that it be recalled as he wanted to offer a slight amendment that would make the act effective the first of next year. This was agreed to and then when it was placed before the assembly it was promptly done to death.

THE UNITY HOUSE OPEN IN SEPTEMBER

The Unity House of the Ladies' Waist and Dressmakers' Union, Local No. 25, will be open during the month of September.

Many who didn't have the opportunity to visit the house will be able to do so now.

Register immediately at the office of the Union, 16 West 21st Street, New York City.

MEETINGS OF CUTTERS' UNION, LOCAL 10.

MISCELLANEOUS

Monday, Aug. 18th

ALL BRANCHES

(General)

Monday, August 25th

CLOAK AND SUIT

Monday, September 8th

DRESS AND WAIST

Monday, September 15th

Meetings begin at 7.30 P. M.

AT ARLINGTON HALL,

23 St. Marks Place.

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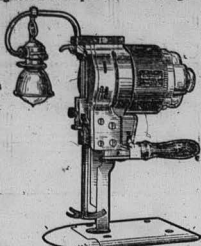
THE FOLLOWING SHOPS HAVE BEEN DECLARED ON STRIKE AND MEMBERS ARE WARNED AGAINST SEEKING EMPLOYMENT THEREIN:

- Jesse Wolf & Co., 105 Madison Ave.
- Son & Ash, 105 Madison Ave.
- Solomon & Metzler, 33 East 33rd St.
- Clairmont Waist Co., 15 West 36th St.
- Mack Kanner & Millius, 136 Madison Ave.
- M. Stern, 33 East 33rd St.
- Max Cohen, 105 Madison Ave.
- Julian Waist Co., 15 East 32nd St.
- Drezwell Dress Co., 14 East 32nd St.
- Regina Kobler, 352 Fourth Ave.

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SPECIAL ATTENTION OF THE ALTERATION WORKERS OF BALTIMORE, MD.

About four weeks ago, the firm Bonvitt Lenon & Co., on 106 N. Charles St., was called in strike which has been impossible of settle. The L. J. G. W. U., Local 101, together with A. F. of L. has put this place on the *Unfair List*. Of the men who went out on strike, one remained in the shop as a scab. His name is Raymond G. Scherick.

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CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY
Local 35, I. L. G. W. U.
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7 West 21st Street, New York

LADIES' TAILORS AND ALTERATION
WORKERS, LOCAL 80.

A GENERAL MEMBER MEETING

will be held on

TUESDAY, AUGUST 19th, at 8 P. M.

—at—

MT. MORRIS HALL, 1362 FIFTH AVENUE

PURPOSE: Continuation of the discussion
about the demand for the new agreement and
the last preparations for the expected general
strike.

EXECUTIVE BOARD, LOCAL 80.

H. HILFMAN, Secretary

DR. BARNET L.
BECKER

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Brooklyn, N. Y.